

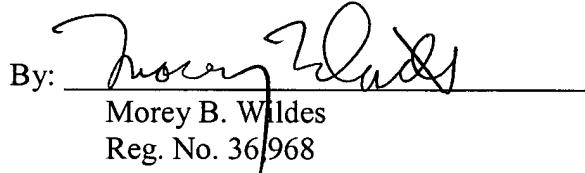
**REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. After claim amendments herein, claims 1-17 will be pending in this application.

Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims presented are patentable. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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